

BOOK REVIEW

Desirable Trees for the Midwest - 50 for the Home Landscape and Larger Properties by Scott Zanon.

In the past decade or so, golf courses have begun to look at trees as either a curse or a blessing. Indeed, a tree that is of the wrong type or planted in the wrong place is nothing but a very tall weed. Often this difference between "good" and "bad" trees is not recognized until it is nearly full grown, and then the Druid in most folks find it difficult to cut down that "big old tree."

Scott Zanon, as a green committee member, often observed this cycle of ambivalence for although the negative impacts of a tree were evident, many people resisted removing the tree. Worse yet, it was one opinion against another on the value of trees, for there were few or no credible sources of information to which people could refer. So Scott researched and wrote the book.

In fact, Scott spent several years researching and collaborating with noted tree expert Dr. Steven Still on the book, because his goal was to make it a reference for not just golf course people, but also have utility for homeowners and large property managers. The book was intended to be a working guide for lay people and it succeeds exceedingly well for it is easy to understand, with great photographs. For a golf course architect it is a great user friendly text.

Granted its focus is the Midwest, but with experts on climate change arguing whether the world is getting warmer and colder, pretty soon everywhere may be the Midwest...and you will be ready to advise on trees. This is a good book and one that you should add to your library.